



Eliza Ellen Bagley Murdock

ELIZA ELLEN BAGLEY MURDOCK

B 8 Aug 1887, Charleston, Ut
D 12 June 1955, Idaho Falls, Ida
M William Henry Murdock 5 Oct 1908
B 5 Apr 1885 D 20 Jul 1943

CHILDREN:

Eldon William, B 6 May 1909 D 1910
Leora Ellen, B 21 May 1910, Victor, Ida
Reho Melvin, B 31 Mar 1912, Victor, Ida
Vandis Richard, B 3 Apr 1915 "
Thora, B 10 Mar 1917, Shelley, Ida
Zora Lillian, B 14 July 1919, Iona, Ida
Bernell Calvin, B 11 Aug 1921 "
Lewis B., B 26 Mar 1924 "
Phillip H., B 4 Nov 1925 D 1926 "

Eliza Ellen Bagley writes in her own history; "Our family home was at Charleston where I was born. I was the second child and first daughter. I was born 8 August 1887. I went to grade school at Charleston, walking the three miles through snow and mud in winter, but I enjoyed climbing the hills picking berries and having fun with my friends in the summer. I did not spend too much time at home. When I became old enough to hire out to work for the neighbors and families of Charleston and Heber City that needed someone to cook and care for their families when new babies were born. Mother had quite a few children at this time so I gave part of the money I made to my younger sisters for doing my work at home.

I was 20 years old the fall my father and mother decided to come to Idaho. Father had heard that he could get free range for his cattle at Victor and although it was a long way they thought it would be best. Mother never had a chance to make that trip. She took ill and father took her to Salt Lake City to the hospital. I never saw mother after that. Father brought us to Victor, then he went back to bring Mother but she became worse and passed away the 21 December 1907. Father brought her body to Victor and it is buried there.

I being the oldest girl, the responsibilities of the family rested upon my shoulders and I took care of them almost as a Mother for over a year. My Father remarried again to Annie Janettie Peterson, 7 Jan 1909. As the children and I did not like her, we left home one by one. Some went to work and board with other families. Parley had married four months after mother died. I had married the fall after mother died 5 October 1908 to William Henry Murdock, but I still lived with father taking care of the children. My father always treated me like a slave or perhaps I wouldn't have left the children, but I took the three youngest and cared for them until Father took them from me and put them in foster homes.

I had met William Henry Murdock at a Halloween masquerade dance. He and a boy friend had come into town from herding sheep and dared one another to go to the dance. My girl friend and I were dressed as Gypsies. The four of us had a gay old time. They took us home and made a date for the next time they came to town.

That fall when they brought the sheep in from the ranges, Will came and stayed with us. Will's mother had died 3 years before and he was just living where he could find a place to stay. My father and Will's mother were brother and sister and it seemed only right that he stayed with us and help father.

We lived on in Victor just a little way out of town. Here we raised and milked 20 head of cows. Will did odd jobs until he got the year-round job of hauling mail and freight from St. Anthony to Jackson, Wyoming. It was a very dangerous job and many a night I lay awake wondering if he would make the trip alright.

When I was seven months along with my first baby I contracted Typhoid fever and the Doctor had to take the baby early to save my life. We named the baby boy Eldon. He was not too strong and died ten months later. I was sick so long I couldn't give him the care he needed. Before my son died I was so sick and wanted to die, my mother came to me and told me my mission on earth was not ended and that I would live to raise a family but she would take my baby instead, so I guess she did.

After the baby died I suffered a relapse. As I lay hovering between life and death, I felt that if my Uncle Parley Edwards who lived a Charleston, Utah could come and administer to me, I would get well. He did not know I was sick but one night he had a feeling that he should go to Idaho. He told his wife he was needed in Idaho and made the journey. I told my husband to go meet the train that Uncle Parley was on it. When Will asked Uncle Parley who they should get to help administer to me, he said he didn't know but another man would be at the house and he would know him when he saw him. Soon after a neighbor, Brother Gurney, came to our place. He had been working in the fields when he had been impressed to go to the Murdock place. So he unhitched and rode one of his horses there. When Uncle Parley saw him, he said that's the man. After this administration, I did start to regain my strength but it took a long time. I had to go on crutches for months and didn't weigh but 84 lbs.

On the 21 August 1910 a daughter Leora Ellen, was born. Then followed Reho and Vandis. Father died that September and in November of the same year we moved from the Basin. The fever I had had for so long had effected my heart and the high altitude didn't agree with me.

We found a place to stay at Shelley. Here Will worked for wages at the flourmill where his pay was flour and whole wheat for us to make bread and mush. Uncle Eph and Aunt Lottie Hanks helped us every way they could but our family needed more than Will could make working for wages. So we worked for four years on a dryfarm in the summer and moved into Iona so the children could attend school in the winter. In the Fall of 1918 we all got the flu and we couldn't wait on ourselves. Our old family cow would come to the door and bawl until she was milked. It was really a job to milk her but that was all we had to live on for about a week. I guess we would have died if Levi Frandsen hadn't become worried about us and came to find out why we hadn't moved down for the winter. It didn't take him long to bring us

medicine and food, and his wife came and took care of us until we could help ourselves. Then he moved us down to Iona. That next year, we had an entire crop failure on account of drought. We were lucky to find enough to eat and wear.

In 1919 Zora was born and Leora broke her knee cap and blood poison went through her body and for about a year she was bedfast. It was two more years before she was able to walk without crutches.

In the Fall of 1920 we moved to Iona. I sold butter, 25 lbs a week, and Will worked on a construction crew and helped build the road to Bone. We stayed two years, and Bernell was born.

The next Spring we moved north of Iona to the Crowley place. We lived there five years but had a hard time raising enough to live on. We depended on our cows, sheep and Will's work at the Lincoln Sugar Factory to see us through. Lewis and Phillip were born there. A year later Phillip died of Intestinal Flu.

We bought our first car in 1927, moved south of Idaho Falls to the Ballentine place and lived there for 11 years. That year we had three operations -- Will operated on for Bleeding Hemorrhoids, and two months before that Reho and Thora for appendicitis.

During our stay on the Ballentine place Will was made first counselor to Bishop Bert Wadsworth and I was primary teacher until 1932 when I became the Relief Society President. Then we find we have to move again.

We looked for a place to buy and found what we wanted to Groveland just west of Blackfoot, Idaho. In the Fall of 1938, we moved to the place. We started building up the soil. Vandis and Zora get married. Will's health became worse and I tried to help as much as I could. Our two young son's Bernell and Lewis, are called to the service, leaving us alone on the ranch. It seemed as if we just couldn't keep ahead of our work. At this time we had about 16 milk cows and 400 head of sheep.

Vandis came back to run the place on shares. We sold the cows and sheep and paid back what we had borrowed on insurance and the rest on the place. Before the job of paying for the place was completed, Will's health became worse and we took him to the hospital in Idaho Falls. There, one week later he passed away, 20 July 1943.

I was alone and lonesome now but determined not to give up Will's and my dream of having a home we could call our own. So with Vandis and True's help, finished paying for the place.

Bernell is released from the service in 1944 and Lewis in 1945. Home isn't the same anymore and I have paid for it. With Vandis to run it, I start to enjoy what little I can with my children and grandchildren. I traveled and stayed with my children as I felt inclined. I spent some of my time visiting and staying with my Aunt Alice Lindsey in Midvale, Utah.

As the years passed my heart condition became worse. I am advised to be with someone all the time, so for 10 months I stay with a widow lady, Mrs. Mamie Edwards, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. My condition has become worse and have come to live with my oldest son, Reho.

Mother's condition is such that she must have hospital care and is taken to the LDS Hospital in Idaho Falls, Idaho where her life story ends when she passes away on the 12 June 1955.



Bill and Ellen Murdock family:
L-R: Zora, Leora, Bernell, Thora, Lewis the baby.



William Henry & Eliza Ellen Murdock



Eliza Ellen Murdock - age 21

Bagley